

PREPOSITIONS AND PREVERBS  
IN HELLENISTIC GREEK

NOELLA BUDD

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## Abstract

This thesis traces the history of usage of a group of words ('P-words') that were adverbial particles in Proto-Indo-European and became in Greek, as in many other IE languages, both prepositions and verbal prefixes. It adopts a corpus-linguistic approach which, when allied with a suitable statistical method and a theoretical framework for analysis of syntactic change (grammaticalisation), allows for the detection and sometimes the explanation of trends in usage which may be invisible to a general reader. However, this method relies on the availability of suitably tagged texts for analysis; such tagging exists for the New Testament, the basis of the statistical analyses of this study, and a few other documents of roughly the same period of Greek, but not for large portions of text from other periods. The finding of this paper is that the method is reliable and likely to produce interesting results once diachronic comparisons and same-period genre and register comparisons become possible with the production of standardised grammatical tagging of texts, a program that is being pursued in New Testament studies and has potential for much wider use in Greek linguistics.

## Keywords

Adverb  
Corpus linguistics  
Grammatical tagging  
Grammaticalisation  
Greek  
Hellenistic Greek  
Historical linguistics  
New Testament  
P-words  
Particle  
Prefix  
Preposition  
Preverb  
Septuagint  
Verb

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## **List of abbreviations and morphological glosses**

<b>ACC</b>	accusative case	<b>N</b>	neuter gender
<b>AF</b>	Apostolic Fathers (usually this refers to a corpus drawn from these writings)	<b>N/A</b>	nominative/accusative case (where not morphologically distinguished)
<b>AOR</b>	aorist tense/aspect	<b>NOM</b>	nominative case
<b>DAT</b>	dative case	<b>NP</b>	noun phrase
	Early Koine period (approx 300 to 0 BC)	<b>NT</b>	New Testament
<b>EK</b>		<b>P</b>	P-word
<b>F</b>	feminine gender	<b>PIE</b>	Proto-Indo-European
<b>FUT</b>	future tense	<b>PL</b>	plural number
<b>GEN</b>	genitive case	<b>PP</b>	preposition phrase
<b>IE</b>	Indo-European	<b>PRES</b>	present tense
<b>IMPF</b>	imperfect tense	<b>PRN</b>	pronoun
<b>LK</b>	Late Koine period (from approx 1st century AD)	<b>PRT</b>	particle
<b>LSJ</b>	Liddell, Scott & Jones: Greek Lexicon	<b>PTCP</b>	participle
<b>LXX</b>	Septuagint (Greek version of Hebrew scriptures) (usually this refers to a corpus drawn from these writings)	<b>PV</b>	preverb
		<b>P-words</b>	words that could be adverbs, adpositions or prefixes
<b>M</b>	masculine gender	<b>SG</b>	singular number
<b>M/N</b>	masculine/neuter gender (where not morphologically distinguished)	<b>TLG</b>	Thesaurus Linguae Graecae